

Obtain public input:

Describe the early and continuing coordination efforts, summarize the key issues and pertinent information received from the public and government agencies through these efforts, and list the agencies and, as appropriate, members of the public consulted.

Studies are underway to identify and evaluate potential environmental effects of the project. Alternatives refinement and the scope of these studies will be based on research conducted during previous work on the RDP, information received from resource and regulatory agencies, and comments and concerns identified during the public and agency scoping period.

When are my comments due and where can I send my comments?

Please submit your comments by February 10, 2006. Your comments can be submitted at the Open House/Scoping Meeting or by mail (attached in comment form) and electronically to:

Mehrdad Moini, PE

Project Manager, WSDOT, Urban Corridors Office
6431 Corson Avenue South, NB 82-61
Seattle, WA 98108-3445
Phone: (206) 768-5686
Email: moinim@wsdot.wa.gov

David T. Williams

SR 518 Environmental Coordinator
401 2nd Avenue South, Suite 560
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: (206) 464-1235
Email: willidt@wsdot.wa.gov

Your involvement throughout this project is important. It ensures that problems and concerns regarding alternatives and foreseeable impacts to the environment are identified early and incorporated into the environmental and design processes. You may receive regular updates by checking out the public website (www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr518) attending future public hearings, and stay informed by getting on our mailing/emailing list.

Who should I contact for more information?

For general information you can access the project's website at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR518/>

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation may request written materials in alternative formats, sign language interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodation by calling David T. Williams collect at (206) 464-1235 or 1-800-833-6388 (Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service) and ask for (206) 515-3683. WSDOT ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 and related statutes by prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin and sex in the provision of benefits and services. For more information about Title VI, please call the WSDOT Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7098.

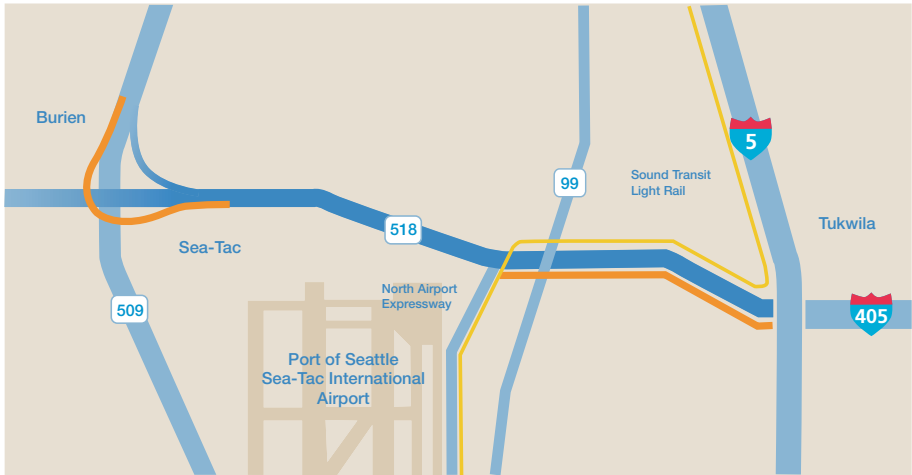
January 26, 2005 | **4:00pm - 7:00pm** | **Highline High School**



Tonight's Goals:

- Present concepts for the projects that have been developed to date
- Ask what design refinements you feel should be considered
- Present environmental issues identified to date
- Ask what additional environmental issues you feel should be studied

Thank you for attending today's Open House and Environmental Scoping Meeting regarding the proposal to improve the SR 518 corridor. The information in this handout, along with information presented in the displays and by project staff, is intended to assist you as an active participant.



Where is SR 518 and why is it important?

SR 518 is an urban corridor that connects SR 509 in Burien to SR 99, I-5 and I-405 and is a key link for travelers, freight, and commuters. SR 518 is the main roadway access to the airport, carrying 80 percent of all passenger and airfreight trips, and providing a key link to the Puget Sound region and the State of Washington.

The freeway also carries thousands of commuters every day to work and urban centers around the region. As a result, over 120,000 vehicles use SR 518 every day including regional commuter trips during morning and evening periods and airport peak time, which occurs midday.



This increasing travel demand and growth in the region will intensify traffic on SR 518. Improvements to SR 518 will provide a foundation for other projects to build upon. The following projects are dependent on the SR 518 improvements:

- Airport traffic and parking enhancements slated for completion in 2006
- Sound Transit's LINK light rail line extension to the airport

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are working with other local transportation organizations such as Sound Transit, to ensure our proposed improvements coordinated with other planned transportation project in the area.

Why is WSDOT developing the SR 518 projects?

To ensure SR 518 will continue to move people and goods, improvements need to be made. Forecasts show traffic congestion on SR 518 is going to get worse in the near future as more people use the freeway. Within the next five years, the Port of Seattle is projecting that drivers leaving the airport will experience more than 30-minute delays with lines of cars backing up nearly to the airport garage.

What is being proposed in these projects?

Two primary interchange projects make up the SR 518 corridor improvement projects:

- **SR 509/SR 518 Interchange:**

The project is located at the junction of SR 518 and SR 509. The project would include the construction of a southbound to eastbound freeway-to-freeway ramp. The ramp could cross under both SR 518 and SR 509 or cross over both SR 518 and SR 509.

Project Benefits:

The project is being designed to address the existing operating inefficiencies and to accommodate projected growth in the surrounding community through the year 2030. The completed project would result in travel time-savings for Port of Seattle traffic, improve access to the City of Burien, and address safety issues at the SR 509 Intersection.

- **SR 99/North Airport Expressway (NAE) Interchange to I-5/I-405 Interchange:**

The project is located north of the Sea-Tac International Airport and would consist of an addition of a third eastbound lane between Sea-Tac International Airport and the I-5/I-405 interchange.

Project Benefits:

The project is being designed to address the existing operating inefficiencies and to accommodate projected growth in the surrounding community and the Port of Seattle facilities through the year 2030. The completed project would reduce congestion on the SR 518 mainline and improve merging operations at the North Airport Expressway and SR 99. Congestion and delays on SR 518 and these ramps would be reduced.

These projects will be advanced through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process through preparation of two Environmental Assessments (EAs). WSDOT is currently working with the Federal Highway Administration, Port of Seattle, Sound Transit and the Cities of Burien, SeaTac and Tukwila to plan for implementation of these projects.



What is the current schedule for these Projects?

- **Fall 2005** - Both EAs would be published, an environmental hearing held, and public/agency comments sought.
- **Early 2006** - If the EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are determined to be the appropriate NEPA documents by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the EA and FONSI will be issued under NEPA and adopted under SEPA Rules.

Your involvement throughout this project is important. It ensures that problems and concerns regarding potential impacts to the environment are identified early and incorporated into the environmental and design processes.

What does the Environmental Assessment process involve?

The environmental documents would:

- Identify and describe the transportation or other needs that the proposed project is intended to satisfy (e.g., provide system continuity, alleviate traffic congestion, and correct safety or roadway deficiencies).
- Identify and analyze alternatives to the proposed project that are being considered.
- Identify impacts and appropriate mitigation measures for each alternative being considered, and address known and foreseeable public and agency concerns.

Studies are underway to identify and evaluate potential environmental effects of the project. Alternatives refinement and the scope of these studies will be based on research conducted during previous work on the RDP, information received from resource and regulatory agencies, and comments and concerns identified during the public and agency scoping period.

What is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

National Environmental Policy Act - requires federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of major federal projects or decisions, to share information with the public; to identify and assess reasonable alternatives; and to coordinate efforts with other planning and environmental reviews taking place.

What is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)?

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) means a document by a federal agency briefly presenting the reasons why an action, not otherwise categorically excluded, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and, therefore, does not require the preparation of an EIS. A FONSI is the federal equivalent of a Negative Declaration.